

Spooky Truths Regarding Halloween Safety On and Off the Road



Halloween is a time for kids and adults alike to have fun. Kids get dressed up as their favorite superhero or ghost, adults dress up to have fun with friends and family for parties, going out on the town etc. But unfortunately, like any other day or event of the year, dangers persist that children and adults must pay attention to. The following information should be taken into account before sending your little ghouls out this year. Adults need to take extra caution when driving during the Halloween season.

In 2015, an estimated **26,100 pedestrian deaths** and **160,000 medically consulted nonfatal injuries** occurred among pedestrians in motor vehicle incidents reported by the National Safety Council (NSC). NSC research revealed the reasons for pedestrian deaths and injuries varied by age. Darting or running into the road accounted for about 70 percent of pedestrian deaths or injuries for those age 5 to 9 and about 47 percent of incidents for those 10 to 14. Alcohol and drug related deaths and injuries accounted for 33% of incidents for those ages 17 – 24.

In the U.S., October ranked No. 2 in motor vehicle deaths by month. The NSC list put August first, with 3,370 deaths, followed by October, 3,200, and September, 3,170. Of the 3,200 vehicle / pedestrian deaths, **35% occurred during a 5 day span surrounding October 31st.....Halloween**

Follow These Ghoulishly Good Best Practices:

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany children aged 12 and under when out trick or treating.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you.
- Agree on a specific time when children should return home.
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.
- Children and adults are reminded to put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.

NSC offers the following safety tips for parents – and anyone who plans to be on the road during trick-or-treat hours:

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Trick-or-Treating

- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and avoid trick-or-treating alone.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home.
- Teach your children to never enter a stranger's home or vehicle.

Costumes

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags to make sure they are visible.
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is nontoxic and always test it in a small area first. Remove it before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation.